



www.mass.gov/czm/wrp/projects_pages/loosestrife.htm

beth.suedmeyer@state.ma.us

phone: 617-626-4921 • fax: 617-626-1240

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

251 Causeway St., Suite 800

Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP)

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Beth Suedmeyer

**For more information
on the Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project
or to submit observations, contact -**

Purple Loosestrife Beetle

(*Galerucella* spp.)

Identification Card



Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol in Massachusetts

Surveillance of purple loosestrife infested wetlands outside of beetle release sites is an important component of biocontrol project monitoring. WRP requests that individuals who spend time in wetlands report observations of *Galerucella* beetles and/or evidence of *Galerucella* feeding on purple loosestrife.

Purple Loosestrife Beetle

(*Galerucella* spp.)

Identification

Please help WRP monitor beetle progress!

Let us know if you see the beetles or beetle evidence shown below.

Galerucella spp. beetles are biocontrol agents released to feed specifically on the invasive wetland plant, Purple Loosestrife.

From left to right: *Galerucella* spp. eggs, larvae, and adults (3-5 mm long and half as wide). Adult and larval feeding patterns can be distinguished from each other. Adult feeding leaves a bullet-hole like pattern with the leaf tissue completely penetrated. Larval feeding does not penetrate the entire leaf; a thin layer of leaf tissue remains visible.

Larva prefer to feed on the newest leaves/shoot tips.

